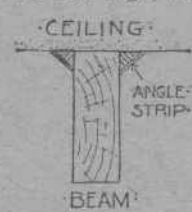




A DUTCH dining room offers one of the best chances for pleasing and artistic treatment, as the color plate on the front page will show. It is within the possibility and means of any house owner to transform his present dining room into a Dutch one much after the picture. The general shape of this room may not be the same as the one in your home, but the illustration affords many suggestions for the manner in which the side walls, ceiling, floor and wainscot may be treated. With the help of a carpenter, painter and paper-hanger the change can be brought about in an easy and successful manner. The cost can easily be kept within \$200.

To begin with, remove the paper from the walls and clear out the room. If a wainscot is to be added the surbase must be taken away, but not the base blocks to the door trim. Then have a carpenter arrange some 6x2-inch spruce beams against the ceiling, as shown in the illustration. They are to be placed on all sides and the ends fastened to a side stringer that may extend all around the side wall close to the ceiling. The beams should be placed about fifteen inches apart in a room sixteen feet square, but in a smaller one they can be closer, while in a larger one they may be placed further apart. Spruce beams at a lumber yard will range from 30 to 75 cents each. The knots and cracks that will be found in them add to their artistic appearance. Before the beams are fastened in place they should be treated to a coat or two of antique oak stain and a coat of hard oil finish to lend to them a light old oak appearance. The ceiling against which they will be fastened should be of clear white plaster, and should be first tinted a cream or pale-green shade with kalsomine or muresco, both of which are preparations that can be purchased at a paint store.

If the beams should not fit quite snug to the ceiling, an angle strip can be nailed to the upper edge of the beam on both sides to fit close to the plaster and cover the fissure. The cut shows a sectional view of beam, plaster and angle strips, so that their relative position can be understood. This scheme of treating a ceiling in the Dutch style is an inexpensive and effective one that does away with the necessity of removing the plaster and lath. A wainscot five feet high, and made of pine, whitewood or spruce well seasoned, can be



arranged to extend all around the room. It can be made up of square and long panels, and provided with a plate shelf six or eight inches wide at the top, which may be supported with small brackets set twelve or fourteen inches apart. The ledge formed by this plate shelf will be found a serviceable resting place for odd bits of china, Dutch mugs and bric-a-brac. At the bottom of the wainscot a surface ten inches high can be placed to form a foot hand to the side walls. The wainscot, as well as other woodwork in the room, should be treated to several successive coats of oak stain and hard oil finish to give them an antique brown color or to match oak chairs, table and other furniture that are to be used.

On a line with the door and window tops, a strip of moulding is to be fastened to act as a picture moulding. Above this strip the frieze should be covered with a light buff ingrain or cartridge paper, without any figure or pattern, while below it a good quality of single-faced olive green velour is to be applied to the wall with glue. If the velour should prove too expensive, a good tapestry cloth or fine burlaps dyed a light olive or deep sage green can be substituted and glued fast in the same manner that wall paper is fastened. All around the edge of the green wall covering a line of large, black-headed nails are to be driven, or if some flat-headed, hand-made bellows nails can be had, they will prove the most serviceable. Large, oval-headed brass upholsterer's nails will probably be the ones that can be purchased at a hardware store. They may be employed, as the heads can be treated to several successive coats of Berlin black paint to give them a dead finish. The paint is made by mixing some powdered lamp black into brass lacquer until it is the consistency of cream, when it can be applied to the metal in thin coats with a soft brush. If the preparation is too thick it may be thinned with alcohol. One coat should not be applied over another until the first is thoroughly dry.

Other metal work in a room, such as chandeliers, side brackets, door hardware, fireplace andirons, frame and fixtures, can be treated



This way it's a table.

figure below \$200 this room will present many attractive features that can be altered slightly to meet tastes and pockets of the various ones interested in carrying out such a pretty and unique scheme for their home. HARRY ADAMS.



This way it's a settee.

to the black finish so that all may correspond. To keep the black work clean and rich in tone, rub it occasionally with a soft woollen rag and a little crude oil.

The cost of such a room depends largely on its size and the material employed, but if carefully planned and good judgment is shown in the selection of materials, this scheme can be carried out at a cost not exceeding \$200, and probably much less. At any

COMBINATION FURNITURE.

MISS MILLS, who has done much clever work in etching on leather and wood for interior decoration, has just designed a combination piece of furniture in burnt wood that is as artistic as it is useful.

The combination is of a wide settee and table, and is especially adapted to circumscribed quarters of the modern apartment. As a table it can be used for dining purposes, for a game of cards or writing tablet. As a settee it is pretty in a small hall or near a fireplace, or in a broad window. As a table there is a good-sized long top, with rounded corners.

RAISE FERNS LIKE THIS IN YOUR ROOM.

A florists agree in saying that ferns form the most beautiful and at the same time most satisfactory of house decorations. For table decorations there is almost an endless variety of dwarf palms, and for decorating corridors and rooms there are the wonderful tree ferns, which for stately form and elegance are beyond description.

These tree palms are natives of Australia and New Zealand. One of the finest varieties is the Dicksonia Antarctica, as tall and stately as a palm, with fibrous stems or trunks from six inches to two feet in diameter and varying in height from three to twenty feet. The tops or crowns of these trees are surmounted with numerous lace-like fronds of a rich dark green, from three to five feet long, looking like the leaf of the sago palm, only more delicate. These choice tree ferns are indispensable in conservatory decorations, and are easily cultivated and cared for, requiring only ordinary attention, and they produce a beautiful and tropical effect wherever they are placed. They look particularly attractive in halls and dining rooms, but their placing of course depends entirely upon the architecture of the room to be decorated.

Another beautiful tree fern is the Australian. The large plume fronds which form the crown are silvery and glaucous underneath, showing delicate contrasts in green. The clear upright trunk resembles very closely that of a palm, but is not so firm in texture. These tree ferns should be placed first in a well drained tub and afterward put in an ornamental receptacle of some kind matching in tone with the design of the room where it is to stand. Cover the top of the loam or earth in the tub with moss and keep the tree well watered, and as often as possible gently wipe the leaves to keep them free from dust and looking fresh and green. Do not use very cold water to wet them, and sprinkle it over the fronds with a watering pot. No matter how hot the rooms are where ferns are kept. If the air is moist and they are kept well watered they will flourish, but do not chill them by opening a window on them when the mercury is down to the freezing point.

No country produces a larger variety or more beautiful small ferns than does North America.

Among the most prized varieties are the lace fern and the maidenhair, of which there are almost numberless species. But beautiful as the North American ferns are, they are not available for Winter jardinières or for house growth except in the Summer, because they are deciduous. So we have to use the ever-green palms, which are natives of China, Japan, Australia, and above all, those that come from the West India Islands.

If you are getting a jardinière for the centre of your dining table, and really no table is complete without one, go to a florist and select the sorts of ferns which suit your fancy, and after you get them home put them in a pretty china receptacle. Water the ferns every day with water, and when the icy chill has been taken by setting the jardinière in a warm room for a few moments after it has been filled. Twice a week take the jardinières and baskets of ferns to the bath room and sprinkle the leaves till all the dust is off; then let them drain before returning them to the table or rooms where they have been taken from.

Although the North American fern is not available for jardinières or baskets, yet the leaves of these ferns form a large part of the decorations for tables at banquets during the Winter.

The gathering, storing and selling of the lace fern leaves form a large industry in certain parts of this country, and hundreds of poor families in the Adirondacks and other wooded regions earn their living by the sale of these leaves. The leaves are gathered during the months of summer, when they are in the very best condition. They are put one on top of the other in packages of ten leaves. Then they are put in cold storage and kept till Winter when they are sent to the florists in New York and other large cities. They are mostly used for flat decorations, such as bordering tablecloths, although sometimes they stand them in baskets and jardinières, which are only for temporary use.

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